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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Programme budget implications of draft decisions A/C.2/48/L.50/Rev.1, A/C.2/48/L.51/Rev.1, A/C.2/48/L.52/Rev.1 and A/C.2/48/L.53/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. At its 48th meeting, held on 13 December 1993, the Second Committee adopted, without a vote, draft decisions A/C.2/48/L.50/Rev.1; A/C.2/48/L.51/Rev.1; A/C.2/48/L.52/Rev.1; and A/C.2/48/53/Rev.1. Statements of programme budget implications were before the Committee in document A/C.2/48/L.82.

I. Draft decision A/C.2/48/L.50/Rev.1, entitled "Strengthening development information systems for regional cooperation and regional integration in Africa"

A. Requests contained in the draft decision

2. Under the terms of draft decision A/C.2/48/L.50/Rev.1, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to endorse Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/67, of 30 July 1993, entitled "Strengthening development information systems for regional cooperation and regional integration in Africa";

(b) Agree to ensure the provision of adequate staffing and resources to permit the delivery of activities to the subprogramme of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on information systems development, beginning with the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

3. By its resolution 1993/67, the Economic and Social Council, inter alia, requested ECA to continue its leadership role in the coordination of development information and technology to respond to pressing development problems of Africa (operative paragraph 4) and requested the General Assembly to ensure the provision of adequate staffing and resources to permit the delivery of activities to the subprogramme of the Commission on information systems development, beginning with the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 (operative paragraph 6).

B. Relationship of the request to the approved programme of work

4. The above proposals relate to major programme VI (Regional cooperation for economic and social development), programme 30 (Regional cooperation for development in Africa), subprogramme 6 (Statistical and information systems development) of the medium term-plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised. 2/ They also relate to the same subprogramme under section 15 (Economic Commission for Africa) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 2/ and to the relevant part of section 20 (Regular programme of technical cooperation). 3/

5. Taking into account the increase of resources proposed under section 20 for activities in the area of statistics information systems development, it is considered, at this stage, that the overall resources proposed under the two sections would be adequate to carry out the activities programmed for the next biennium. It is also expected that, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation, 4/ the internal organizational restructuring of ECA, currently under way, would lead to further strengthening of the subprogramme. In this context, it should be noted that a review of future arrangements for the Pan-African Development Information System (PADIS) would be undertaken in the course of 1994 and that the outcome of that review would be submitted to the ECA Conference of Ministers for its consideration. Should it be necessary, the Secretary-General would revert to this question following the outcome of the review.

II. Draft decision A/C.2/48/L.51/ Rev.1 entitled "African Institute for Economic Development and Planning"

A. Requests contained in the draft decision

6. Under the terms of draft decision A/C.2/48/L.51/Rev.1, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to endorse Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/68 of 30 July 1993, entitled "African Institute for Economic Development and Planning";

(b) Agree, in considering the proposed programme budget for the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 1994-1995, to take adequate steps to ensure sufficient staffing for the Commission at the Professional level to implement its mandates.

B. Additional requirements

7. It will be recalled that, in view of the financial difficulties of the African Institute for Economic Development Planning, the General Assembly has approved a grant from the regular budget since its forty-fifth session (resolutions 45/248 A, sect. v, and 46/185 C, sect. xvii) to cover the cost of four Professional posts (1 D-1, 1 P-5, and 2 P-4). At the time of the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, a review of the financial situation of the Institute showed that, despite various measures taken by the Institute to increase its income, the situation had not improved. Under the circumstances, it was concluded that, in order to enable the Institute to continue to contribute to the development process in Africa, it was necessary to continue to provide it with financial assistance for the next biennium. Accordingly, section 15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 contains a proposal for a grant of $942,400 to cover the cost of the four Professional posts. It is considered that this proposal would respond to the request contained in draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.51/Rev.1.

III. Draft decision A/C.2/48/L.52/Rev.1, entitled "Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa"

A. Requests contained in draft decision A/C.2/48/L.52/Rev.1

8. Under the terms of draft decision A/C.2/48/L.52/Rev.1, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to endorse Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/66, of 30 July 1993, entitled "Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa";

(b) Agree to provide the Economic Commission for Africa, in its capacity as lead agency for the Second Decade, with adequate resources, allocated within the regular budget, to enable it to effectively and efficiently carry out the activities listed in paragraph 5 (a) to (d) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/63.

9. By its resolution 1993/66, the Economic and Social Council, inter alia, requested ECA:

(a) To carry out the first mid-term evaluation of the programme for the Second Decade in 1994, as stipulated in the implementation strategy;

(b) To revise the objectives and strategy of the programme for the Second Decade in the light of changed circumstances, if need be, in consultation with member States;

(c) To assist member States and African intergovernmental organizations to prepare and screen new projects for inclusion in the programme in 1995 as stipulated in the programme implementation plan, in consultation with member States;

(d) To organize two regional workshops on the Second Decade to disseminate the strategy and promote the objectives of the Second Decade in Africa.

B. Relationship of the request to the approved programme of work

10. The above decision relates to major programme VI (Regional cooperation for development), programme 30 (Regional cooperation for development in Africa), subprogramme 8 (Infrastructural and structural transformation) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, and to the same subprogramme under section 15 (Economic Commission for Africa) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

C. Activities by which the request would be implemented and additional requirements

11. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft decision referred to above, ECA would undertake the first mid-term evaluation of the programme for the Second Transport and Communications Decade during 1994. This would include the following activities:

(a) The convening of four subregional meetings (Lusaka, Rabat, Lagos/Abuja and Yaounde) for a duration of five working days each to undertake the mid-term evaluation of the programme (1994);

(b) The convening of two workshops for a duration of five working days each with the participation of representatives from all member States and representatives from the five multilateral programming and operational centres (MULPOCs) so as to disseminate strategies and promote the Second Transport and Communications Decade for Africa (1995);

(c) Assisting member States and African intergovernmental organizations to prepare and screen new projects for inclusion in the programme in 1995, as stipulated in the programme implementation plan.

12. The estimated requirements for these activities would be as follows:

(a) Convening of four subregional meetings:

		$
(i)	Interpretation	91 800
(ii)	Attendance and participation of two staff members in each subregional meeting	23 300
(iii)	Consultancy for evaluation of the Second Decade, updating macroeconomic and financial impact studies	60 000
	Total	175 100

/...

(b) As regards the convening of the two regional workshops, it will be recalled that four subregional workshops on the Second Transport Decade (two in 1994 and two in 1995) are programmed for the next biennium under subprogramme 8 (Infrastructural and structural transformation) of section 15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. Should the General Assembly adopt draft decision A/C.2/48/L.52/Rev.1, it is proposed to use the resources related to these subregional workshops for convening the two regional workshops referred to in Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/66.

(c) Concerning the provision of assistance by ECA to member States and African intergovernmental organizations to prepare and screen new projects, it will be recalled that section 20 (Regional programme of technical cooperation) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 contains proposals to increase the resources of the Economic Commission for Africa in the areas of transport and communications. It is considered that these resources would enable ECA to provide the assistance that may be requested of it.

D. Modifications required in the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995

13. The following modifications would be made to the proposed programme of work of ECA under section 15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995: 5/

Subprogramme 8. Infrastructural and structural transformation

Activities

2. Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation: report to the Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications and African Ministers of Industry on the mid-term programme evaluation of the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa at the subregional level (1994).

5. Operational activities

(b) Group training including seminars, workshops and fellowships: Replace "Four subregional workshops on the Second Transport Decade (two in 1994, two in 1995)" by "Two regional workshops on the Second Transport Decade to disseminate the strategy and promote the objectives of the Second Decade in Africa (1995)".

E. Contingency fund

14. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources

available within the contingency fund, those activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low priority areas or modifications of projected activities. Otherwise such additional activities will have to be deferred.

15. No activity has been identified for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 15 for the biennium 1994-1995 in order to convene the four subregional meetings referred to above. Should it not prove possible to meet the above-mentioned requirements from the contingency fund, the implementation of the activities concerned would have to be deferred, as provided for in the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987.

F. Summary

16. Should the General Assembly adopt draft decision A/C.2/48/L.52/Rev.1, the narrative of the programme of work indicated in paragraph 13 above would be added under section 15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. An additional appropriation in the amount of $175,100 would be required under the same section.

IV. Draft decision A/C.2/48/L.53/Rev.1, entitled "Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa"

A. Requests contained in the draft decision

17. Under the terms of draft decision A/C.2/48/L.53/Rev.1, the General Assembly would:

(a) Endorse Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/65, of 30 July 1993, entitled "Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa";

(b) Agree to provide adequate resources to the Economic Commission for Africa for the Second Decade, especially to strengthen industrial cooperation in the implementation of the programme for the Decade.

18. By its resolution 1993/65, the Economic and Social Council, inter alia,

(a) Recommended that the General Assembly provide adequate resources to the Economic Commission for Africa for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, especially to strengthen industrial cooperation in the implementation of the programme for the Decade;

(b) Requested the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to further harmonize their activities to support member States in their efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Second Decade.

B. Relationship of the request to the approved programme of work

19. The above request relates to major programme VI (Regional cooperation for economic and social development), programme 30 (Regional cooperation for development in Africa), subprogramme 8 (Infrastructural and structural transformation) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, and to the same subprogramme in section 15 (Economic Commission for Africa) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

20. The particulars of the programme for the Decade were available at the time of the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 and have been taken into account in the preparation of subprogramme 8 (Infrastructural and structural transformation) of section 15 (Economic Commission for Africa) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. In addition, it is recalled that increased resources are proposed under section 20 (Regular programme for technical cooperation) in order to strengthen the capacity of ECA in the area of industrial development, including the implementation of relevant activities of the programme for the Second Decade. At this stage, therefore, it is considered that the resources proposed under sections 15 (Economic Commission for Africa) and 20 (Regular programme of technical cooperation) would be adequate to enable ECA to respond to the request contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/65.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1), vol. II.

2/ A/48/6 (sect. 15).

3/ A/48/6 (sect. 20).

4/ E/1993/85, para. 201.

5/ A/48/6 (sect. 15).